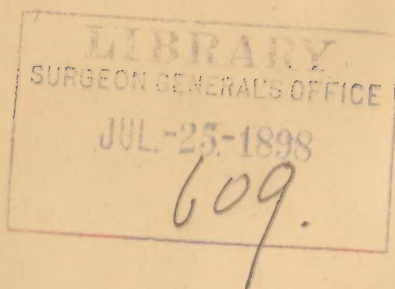


Hargreaves (Wm)

Our nation's drink bill

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# OUR NATION'S DRINK BILL.

## *And Some Consequential Results.*

BY WM. HARGREAVES, M. D.

Author of "Our Wasted Resources," "Alcohol and Science," Etc.  
 "Alcohol and Man," Etc. "Malt Liquors—their Nature and  
 Effects;" and "Wealth and Waste"—the Sequel to  
 "Our Wasted Resources."

THE effects of the use of intoxicating drinks, and the traffic in them, upon society, are many-sided—social, moral, religious and economical. The social relations are visible everywhere, and chiefly the effects of drunkenness on the family. The family is the source and foundation of all society. Drinks mar or destroy family life. No sorrow or cruelty is absent from the blunted affections and inflamed passions caused by drink; turning life's blessings into curses. The drink, by the lust it engenders and vile passions it arouses, makes the family an impossibility; and the social decay it causes is seen everywhere in the decline of physical health. The very children, from the drink, inherit diseased or weak bodies and brains from their parents.

Social well-being is hindered, and its very existence endangered by drink blunting and blinding the conscience. The judges, magistrates and criminals all unite in their declarations of the close relation of drink and crime. Eighty-two per cent. of crime in Suffolk county, Mass., was traced to drink. Nothing so blunts the moral sentiments and destroys the influence of religious teachings as drink. But in this paper it is designed to examine briefly the economical and statistical aspect.

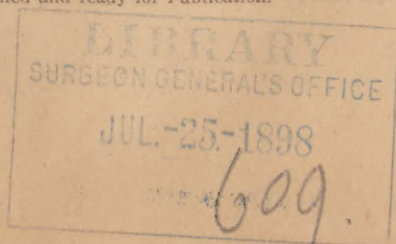
### DRINK-SHOPS AND DWELLINGS IN THE U. STATES.

In the United States in 1880, there were 8,955,812 dwellings, of which 163,522 were taxed retail liquor places, and 11,610 taxed retail malt liquor shops, or a total of 175,133 drinking places taxed to sell liquors by retail. These drinkshops, if placed together, would make a city with more dwellings than there are in Philadelphia (146,412) and Pittsburg (24,280) combined, and as many dwellings remain as will make another city as large as Sacramento, California; or they would make four cities as large as St. Louis, Mo., or two cities larger than New York. Indeed, they would make a city with more dwellings than New York city, Brooklyn, Albany and Syracuse, and 1,307 dwellings to spare.

The drinkshops of the United States, if arranged in one street, allowing each a frontage of 30 feet, would form a street with drinkshops on each side 497 miles long—nearly from Philadelphia to Cleveland, Ohio; or placed side by side, would extend on each side of the railroad track from Philadelphia nearly to Cleveland.

It is claimed by those interested in the traffic, that the manufacture and sale of intoxicating drinks are beneficial to the nation, and has special claims for favor and protection by the laws of the several States and the Nation. If we only consider the amount of money spent for drinks, it might be admitted that the traffic holds a prominent position; but the fact that the money spent forms so large an item of expenditure, it becomes necessary to consider whether the position it holds is conducive to the happiness of our people and the prosperity of the nation. 1st. What is the cost of Drinks? 2. What are the results?

\*Now finished and ready for Publication.



# WHAT DO DRINKS COST?

The cost of drinks for the fifteen years ending June 30, 1883, and for three periods of five years each, and the several years named, was as follows:—

1869, -	\$693,999,975	1874, -	\$694,016,447	1879, -	\$620,275,930
1870, -	619,425,111	1875, -	690,043,493	1880, -	733,816,495
1871, -	680,036,042	1876, -	617,611,118	1881, -	809,142,580
1872, -	735,720,048	1877, -	635,613,534	1882, -	875,665,344
1873, -	714,196,517	1878, -	585,783,782	1883, -	944,629,581
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Total,	\$3,443,377,692	Total	\$3,223,068,374	Total	\$3,983,529,930

## THE NATION'S DRINK BILL.

The cost of Drink for 1870, 1882 and 1883, with kind and quantities. 1870.

Dom. Spirits, 72,425,353 gals. at 10c. glass, or \$6 a gal.	\$434,552,118
" Ferm'd Liquors (6,081,520 bls) 188,527,120 " at 5c. a " or \$20 a bbl.	121,630,400
Impor'd Spirits 1,441,747 " at \$10 a gal.	14,417,470
" Wines 9,088,894 " at \$5 a gal.	45,444,470
" Sp. Comp. 34,239 " at \$10 a gal.	342,390
" Ale, Beer, &c. 1,012,754 " at \$3 a gal.	3,038,262
<hr/>	
Totals 272,530,107 gals.	\$619,423,110

1882.

Domestic Spirits, 84,876,212 gals. at \$6 a gal.	\$509,257,296
Domestic Ale, Beer, etc. (15,680,678 bls.) 484,101,018 " at \$20 a bbl.	313,613,560
Imp'd Spirits, Cordials, &c. 1,379,635 " at \$10 a gal.	13,796,350
" Still Wines, casks, 4,452,866 " at \$5 a gal.	22,264,330
" Ale, Beer, etc. 1,536,600 " at \$3 a gal.	4,609,800
" Champagne in bots. 344,627 doz. estimated,	8,895,646
" S. Wines in bots. 263,453 doz. "	3,228,362

Totals, bots. 608,080 doz. 578,346,335 gals. costing \$875,665,341

1883.

Domestic Spirits, *90,529,333 gals. at \$6 a gal.	\$543,175,998
" Ale, Beer, Porter. (16,426, 50 bls.) *509,207,550 " at \$20 a bl.	328,521,000
Imp'd Spirits, Cordials, †1,676,069 " at \$10 a gal.	16,760,690
" Still Wines, †6,901,551 " at \$5 a gal.	34,507,755
" Ale, Beer, Porter, †1,881,002 " at \$3 a gal.	5,643,006
" Champagne, †524,988 doz. bot. estimat'd cost,	12,646,190
" Other Wines †265,603 "	3,374,942

Totals, 790,591 610,195,505 gals, costing \$944,629,581

The increase of our Drink bill in 1883 over 1882 was nearly 69 million dollars. If the precise consumption and cost of liquors in our country could be ascertained, the direct expenditures would be found not less than one thousand million dollars a year.

\*See Internal Rev. Report 1883 †See Com. and Nav. Report 1883.

## INDIRECT COST & LOSS AND DIRECT COST OF DRINKS.

It is estimated that the indirect cost and loss from the mischiefs arising from the use of the drinks, viz.: Pauperism, crime, disease, &c., amounts to fully as much as the direct cost of drinks. This is doubtlessly true, as shown by the following estimates of the indirect costs and losses flowing from the liquor traffic in the United States in 1880:

*1	Loss of productive labor of 586,472 persons in the liquor trades, - - -	\$283,236,000
2	Loss of productive labor of 700,000 drunkards, - - -	175,000,000
3	Loss of productive labor of 2,138,391 moderate drinkers, - - -	222,392,664
4	Loss of 66,660,792 bushels of grain destroyed in breweries and distilleries, - - -	33,330,396
5	Loss of time and cost of medical attendance and medicine in sickness caused by drinks, - - -	119,368,576
6	Loss to employers by time lost by drinking workmen, - - -	10,000,000
7	Cost of supporting 83,899 defective persons by drink, as insane, etc. etc. - - -	16,779,800
8	Cost of supporting 59,110 paupers made such by drink, at \$100 a year, - - -	5,911,000
9	Loss of labor of 59,110 paupers and vagrants, at \$300 per annum, - - -	17,733,000
10	Cost of supporting 39,481 prisoners at \$100 a year, - - -	3,948,300
11	Loss of labor of 39,481 prisoners at \$300 a year, - - -	11,844,300
12	Cost of police, prosecutions, court expenses, losses by jurors, witnesses, etc. - - -	15,000,000

Total indirect cost and loss from use of drink, - - -	\$924,544,036
Annual average cost of liquors of 3 years (1880-1-2) - - -	803,198,130

Total annual direct cost of drinks and loss, etc. - - -	\$1,727,742,166
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These estimates of the annual cost and loss are only approximations, yet they are doubtless below the real cost, as every one at all acquainted with the subject will testify. Seventeen hundred million dollars annually for vice, crime, demoralization, impoverishment, misery, disease and death! In the words of *The Times* (London) in a leader, "Drinking baffles us, confounds us, shames us at every point. It outwits alike the teacher, the man of business, the patriot and legislator. Every other institution founders in hopeless difficulties—the public house holds its triumphant course!"

The above applies to the United States as fully as to England.

## ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES FOR NECESSARIES OF LIFE.

The value of articles of general consumption used in the United States will be about their value at the place of production; for by comparing the value of articles of common use imported and exported, the imported only exceed the value of exported by a few million dollars; not more perhaps than the value of articles remaining in stores and warehouses, etc., unsold. We will therefore estimate that our people expend annually for necessities of life as follows:

"Wealth and Waste." Sequel to "Our Wasted Resources."

1000  
960  
920  
880  
840  
800  
760  
720  
680  
640  
600  
560  
520  
480  
440  
400  
360  
320  
280  
240  
200  
160  
120  
80  
40

.... 1883

Cost  
\$944

1880

of

Drinks

1880

\$803

Millions.

Value  
of  
Textiles

Value of  
Cotton  
Goods  
\$210  
Millions.

Value  
Woolen  
Goods  
\$160

Value of  
Boots  
and  
Shoes  
\$196  
Millions.

Value  
of  
Articles  
of  
Wear  
1880  
\$482  
Millions.

**DIAGRAM**  
COMPARING THE  
**Estimated Annual Expenditure in**  
THE UNITED STATES  
**FOR INTOXICATING DRINKS,**  
1880 AND 1883.

With the Chief Items of Expenditures for 1880.  
BY WM. HARGREAVES, M. D.  
Author of "Our Wasted Resources," "Alcohol  
and Science," etc., "Wealth and Waste"—  
the Sequel to "Our Wasted Resources."

Wages  
Paid  
for all  
Manufac'g  
and  
Mechan'cl  
Industries

1880  
was  
\$947  
Millions.

Value  
of  
Butter and  
Cheese  
\$186

Value  
of  
Bread  
\$302

Value  
of all  
Foods  
1880  
\$963  
Millions

For Food and Food-preparations,	-	\$963,000,000
Bread, etc.	-	302,000,000
Butter and Cheese,	-	186,000,000
Sugar, etc.	-	234,000,000
Coffee, Tea, Cocoa, etc.	-	145,000,000
Articles of Wear (men and women),	-	482,000,000
Textiles,	-	437,000,000
Cotton Goods,	-	210,000,000
Woolen Goods,	-	160,000,000
Boots and Shoes,	-	196,000,000
Worsted Goods,	-	33,000,000
Carpets,	-	31,000,000
Cost of Liquors in 1883,	-	944,629,581
Wages paid for Mechanical and Manuf'ing industries,	-	947,953,795
Expenditures for Drinks (an average of 3 years, '80 to '82)	-	803,000,000

The cost of Drink for 1882 was 875 million dollars. Thus :

1st. There was spent for drink nearly three times as much as for bread, and nearly as much as for all kinds of food.

2d. Drink costs over four times more than for butter and cheese.

3d. We spend nearly four times as much for drink as for sugar, etc.; and coffee, tea, cocoa and chocolate cost a little more than one-sixth the cost of drink.

4th. Articles of wear cost a little more than half the cost of drink.

5th. All textiles of 1880 cost about one-half the cost of drink in '82.

6th. Cotton goods cost about one-fourth that of drink.

7th. Drink cost five times as much as woolen goods.

8th. We spent four times more for drink than for boots and shoes.

9th. Twelve times more was paid for drink than for worsted goods and carpets.

10th. Drinks cost in 1883 only about three millions less than was paid for wages in 1880 for mechanical and manufacturing industries.

#### *Of the Money Spent for Drink very Little Goes for Labor.*

By spending one hundred dollars for the aggregate manufactures of the United States, by census 1880, \$14.12\* goes to labor; \$100 spent for boots and shoes, \$20.71 is for labor; for clothing \$17.42; for furniture, upholstery, etc., \$23.71; for hardware, \$24.17; for cotton goods, \$16.91; woolen goods, \$12.86; for worsted goods, \$13.55; and for men's furnishing goods, \$18.34; while \$100 spent for liquors will only give to labor \$1.23. To average a day's work at \$2, one hundred dollars spent for boots and shoes will give one person work for 10 71-200 days; for clothing 8 71-100 days; for furniture, etc., 11 177-200 days; for hardware, 12 17-200 days; for cotton goods, 8 91-200; for woolen goods, 6 43-100 days; for worsted goods, 6 155-200 days; and for men's furnishing goods, 9 34-200 days; while one hundred dollars spent for liquors will only give one man work for a little over 6-10 of a day, or a little over a half day. It must be clear to every one that to spend money for intoxicating drinks inflicts serious injury on the trade and industry of the country and deprives our laboring classes of work and wages. Workmen! the drink question is more important to you than the Tariff or any other question before the country. Abolish the drink-traffic, and there will be work and good wages for all.

\*See "Wealth and Waste"

## LOSS BY THE DESTRUCTION OF FOOD.

The grain and other products destroyed by the brewers and distillers to produce drink (articles unfit to nourish the human body) are a total loss. To make intoxicating drinks, over sixty-six million bushels of the various kinds of grain are destroyed annually. In 1882, there was destroyed in distilleries, 2,192,719 bushels of malt; 301,241 bushels of wheat; 4,228,669 bushels of rye; 20,051,239 bushels corn; 168,488 bushels oats; 452,330 bushels mill-feed, and 2,121,804\* gallons of molasses. There were destroyed in breweries 39,201,697 bushels of barley. Total grain destroyed in distilleries and breweries 66,660,792 bushels, which at fifty cents a bushel, would be worth \$33,330,396. The average weight of grain used for liquors is about fifty-three lbs. per bushel, and yields forty lbs. of flour, makes sixty lbs. of bread, or fifteen 4 lb. loaves. The 66 million bushels would give a grand total of 990,000,000 four-pound loaves of bread, or more than 99½ loaves for each family in the United States in 1880. This does not include the grain destroyed in making the imported liquors used, nor the native wines, 30,000,000 gallons, as given in the Report of Agriculture, 1880, but only liquors paying tax as per Internal Revenue Report for '82. These loaves used as paving stones, would pave a street fifteen hundred miles long, or a road along the line of the railroad longer than from Boston to Omaha, Nebraska.

To remove these loaves from the bakery, at the rate of 500 for each load, and a load every half hour to be thrown into the Delaware river (Philadelphia), and to haul them ten hours a day during the entire year, it would take 275 wagons, or one wagon 275 years. What horror and rage would be excited in the mind of every sane citizen who should see these 275 wagons going to the Delaware, each having 500 four-pound loaves of bread to be thrown into the river! Not a single loaf would touch the water before he who attempted to destroy the bread would be thrown after it. Yet year after year grain is destroyed in manufacturing intoxicating drinks equal to the amount of bread that these 275 wagons could haul in one year at the given rate. If nine hundred and ninety million 4 pound loaves of bread, or 66 million bushels of grain, were annually destroyed by being thrown into the rivers of our country, the food would be lost, and that would be the end of it; our people would be blessed by its destruction compared with the evil results that flow from the drinks made from the grain. The drink not only ruins our people financially, but undermines virtue, blunts the conscience, effaces memory, enfeebles understanding, dethrones reason, and destroys life. It is certainly bad to destroy the grain, but it is very much worse to destroy the grain and ruin the people also. It is a sin and a crime to destroy food even when enough is left to feed the people. The food annually destroyed would feed not less than three millions of our people. Every bushel of grain made into liquor increases the price of what remains. *Dear bread means bad trade.* When people have to pay all, or nearly all they

\*The average yield of grain was 3,694 gallons spirits per bushel—one gallon molasses yielded 781 of a gallon of spirits.

See Internal Revenue Report, 1881, p. 113.

earn for food, they cannot buy clothing and other necessaries. It is the same in the end whether 66 million bushels of food are destroyed in breweries and distilleries or rots in the fields by rain and mildew, or cut down by grasshoppers. You may say the farmer gets his money for the grain, and it employs labor and consumes products, etc. True. If I buy a barrel of flour for \$5, and then throw it into the river, I cause a consumption of products. It is wasted, you say. How so? I paid the flour merchant—he paid the miller—the miller paid his men their wages—the farmer receives his money for the wheat, and the money is circulated. But you answer, you have not the barrel of flour you paid for—you have nothing for your money. There's the point! Neither the buyer nor consumer receives value for the money paid for liquor. It is an entirely useless commodity, and hence the materials used in its manufacture are destroyed; the labor employed to produce the drink, and the money paid for it, are entirely lost. With the destruction of the flour or grain the loss ends; but with money spent for drink there begins another series of losses—financial, physical, mental and moral—the least of which is the money paid for liquors. Therefore if the grain was simply destroyed without being made into liquors, it would be vastly better for our people. No nation can practice such waste and continue to prosper.

### MONEY SPENT FOR DRINKS AND OTHER PURPOSES.

There has been spent for intoxicating drinks during this century (from 1800 to 1883), more than twenty-one thousand million dollars (\$21,683,959,223), which is over four thousand million dollars more than all imports into and over six thousand million more than all exports from the country within the same period. In the three years from 1880 to 1882 (inclusive), over two thousand four hundred millions were spent for drinks, or a little less than all our exports, and about four hundred million dollars more than all our foreign imports. These three years' drink bill was two hundred millions more than the value of all our agricultural products (\$2,213,402,564) in 1880. Our last year's (1883) drink bill (\$944,629,581) was only about three millions less than all the wages paid in 1880 for all manufacturing and mechanical industries (\$947,953,795), and only about nineteen millions less than the estimated expenditures for food (\$963,000,000) in 1880.

The value of the products of all manufacturing and mechanical industries of the United States in 1880 (\$5,369,579,191) was 154 million dollars more than our last six years' drink bill (\$5,204,927,246). Our last ten years' drink bill (7,206,598,304) was only 366 million less than the value (7,572,981,758) of all our agricultural products and all the products of our mechanical and manufacturing industries in 1880.

Our people in less than three years spent in drink the value of all our products of agriculture, and in about 10½ years expended the value of all the productive industries of the country. In other words, if a fire was kindled on the first of January every eleventh year, and continue burning during that year—if every article as fast as produced in all our factories, workshops and mines, and all our farm products, as fast as gathered, were thrown into this fire, and burned up until only the ashes remained, such destruction of the products of labor would not

do as much harm nor inflict upon our people as much pecuniary injury as is produced every eleven years by the use of and the sale of intoxicating drinks. To destroy annually the products of our factories, workshops and farms of the value of the money spent for drink, by fire or flood, would be a great loss, and cries of woe and sorrow would be heard all over our land. Yet this destruction would not deprive our people of the ability and power to supply their loss with other products, as do the drinks for which the money is spent.

The assessed value of the real and personal property of the United States in 1880 was \$16,902,993,543, and the real value about double that amount, or \$33,805,987,086. We spent during the present century (from 1800 to 1883 inclusive) nearly 22 thousand million dollars (\$21,683,959,223), or more than two-thirds the real value of all the property, real and personal, that has accumulated in the nation since the landing of the Pilgrim fathers on Plymouth Rock.

If the real cost of liquors and the consequential results of their use could be ascertained since the Declaration of Independence of the United States, it would doubtless be found that more money has been spent than would buy to-day all our farms, factories, workshops, mines, railroads, houses, furniture, clothing, stores, warehouses, and everything they contained, with breweries, distilleries and liquor-shops thrown in. If the money spent since the Declaration of Independence for drink had been spent for useful and necessary articles, the real and personal property would doubtless be nearly double what it now is, our people more intelligent, moral and religious, and our industrious classes free from the taxation imposed for charities and corrections.

The ten years' drink-bill (from 1870 to 1879) was \$6,706,913,406, or fifteen hundred millions more than the permanent investment (\$5,182,445,807) in all the 87,891 miles of railroads operated in 1880. Our drink-bill (5,567, 52,076) for the eight years from 1875 to 1882 inclusive, was 385 millions more than the investment in all the railroads in the country. The drink-bill of 1880 (\$733,616,495) was 72 millions more than the aggregate income (\$661,295,391) of all the railroads in the nation that year.

No people, however favored, can continue to prosper who waste so large a proportion of labor value for poisonous drinks. No wonder that hard times and stagnation of trade should follow such waste and the violation of economic laws.

Abolish the *Liquor Traffic*—the source of WASTE and RUIN.

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